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S. Rangel
8/4/99XA-7889A Re
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Kenji NISHI

Appln. No.: 08/994,758

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: December 19, 1997

Examiner: A. Mathews

For: PROJECTION EXPOSURE APPARATUS

* * *

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF REISSUE APPLICATION

Supplementing my Declaration dated March 26, 1998, I, Kenji Nishi, hereby make the following declaration:

1) I verily believe that I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the invention described and claimed in United States Letters Patent No. 5,477,304, and the specification and claims of this reissue application, including the claims presented by amendment therein.

2) I have reviewed and understand the contents of said claims.

3) I verily believe said Letters Patent to be partly inoperative by reason of my having claimed less than I had a right to claim in said Letters Patent. For example, except for original Claims 30-33, all of the original claims recite an apparatus. Although Claims 30-33 recite a method, the method steps include irradiating a mask, synchronously scanning the mask and a plate, detecting a deviation between an ideal positional relation and an actual positional

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relation of the mask and the plate at a term of a scanning exposure, and correcting a position of the mask. These recitations differ substantially from the steps of method claims now presented. For instance, Claim 68 recites the steps of moving a first object in a first direction, finely shifting the first object, and moving a second object in a second direction.

4) The failure to present in my original application, claims that are broader in certain respects than claims of said Letters Patent, as shown by the foregoing example, renders said Letters Patent partly inoperative and constitutes errors.

5) All errors being corrected in this reissue application up to the time of filing of this declaration arose without any deceptive intention on my part or on the part of Nikon Corporation, the Assignee of said Letters Patent.

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that

such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of
the application or any patent issuing thereon.

July 26, 1999

Date

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NHS:lmb